



## TOP PERSON

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

### CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *Top Person*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Stay at the top of shaft collars, make preparations for miners entering the shaft and act as a communications link between employees in the shaft and hoist/crane operators

**NOTE:** This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

### APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- One year of practical mining experience with at least 30 days under the direction of a certified top person or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Hold a General Miner Certification
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 80% on each element of the examination

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
First Aid (FA)	20
Top Person (TP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Combustible Materials</li><li>Communication</li><li>Duties</li><li>Equipment</li><li>General Requirements</li></ul>	40
Federal Regulations (FR)	20
Hoisting (HT)	20
Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

### RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ■ Title 30 CFR Parts 50, 71, 75, 77 | ■ Top Person Study Guide           |
| ■ Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia | ■ First Aid for Miners Study Guide |
| ■ BCME Requirements                 | ■ Mine Gases Packet                |

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.